

ANNUAL REPORT

on the activities of the National Institute of Criminology (OKRI) in 2009

I. UTILISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

A great deal of attention has also been paid to the utilisation of the findings of research work carried out at the Institute in the reporting period. Researchers have been involved in the creation of theories and in the preparation of background documents necessary for setting out major directions in criminal policy. Research results have been used in university and college education, in postgraduate training and in the further training of parliamentary draftsmen and legal secretaries. Research findings have helped us to satisfy the request for our participation in codification and legal interpretation activities carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office. The professional prestige of researchers has had a positive impact on the professional knowledge and popularity of scientific organisations and also those journals where they were active as authors, editors or proofreaders. This year too, our researchers fulfilled an important role by presenting our research findings, views and opinions to the public through the media. This is shown by the fact that in the year reported on, a particularly large number of researchers appeared in the written and electronic media.

1. Lectures

In 2009, researchers of the Institute gave a total of **163 lectures** at different conferences and professional forums, **38** of which were presented in a foreign language and **21** abroad. The large number of invitations to present lectures at conferences is a sign of the professional recognition our researchers enjoy. The **lectures presented in Hungary** included 69 presentations given at conferences and 73 at other events. (The total of lectures in Hungary – just as in previous years – does not include lectures presented as part of ongoing or ad hoc educational activities.)

2. Publications

In the year in question, our researchers authored a total of **147 publications**, **21** of which were in a foreign language. (Of the latter, **15** appeared abroad.)

This level of publication can be said to be significant, even when compared to similar figures from previous years: the number of publications has doubled compared to 2007, and by a factor of 1.5 compared to 2008. (In 2007, there were 74 OKRI publications, five in a foreign language, whereas in 2009 there were 100 publications, 15 in a foreign language.)

Amongst the publications there are **five monographs** and **41 book chapters**. A total of **31 studies** appeared in professional journals, **11 papers** as part of the volume *Studies in Criminology* and **nine articles** were published in various conferences proceedings. It should be mentioned that the number of publications regarded by professionals as 'more valuable' was much higher than the previous year. There is an increasing tendency for OKRI researchers to exploit the flexible publication facilities provided by the internet. This year 22 specialist publications appeared on the internet.

(It should be noted that, in the OKRI's report, publications in which OKRI staff appear as co-authors or co-editors are shown as one single publication. This is done because in spite of a book being the work of several OKRI authors, from the point of view of the Institute itself, only one volume can be counted. Thus the two-volume work, in which three OKRI researchers worked as

co-editors, and eleven OKRI staff were authors, has been counted as only two publications as seen by the Institute. Note: written pieces that are journalistic in nature continue to be listed under another heading, media appearances.)

3. Appearances in the mass media

As far as media appearances are concerned, it has to be noted that we cannot provide an exhaustive list of the statements, interviews and other media appearances made with the participation of OKRI researchers for this year. It is mostly the researchers themselves who draw up a list of such appearances.

This year, our research projects and researchers received a lot of attention from the mass media – this was partly as a result of the several very successful press conferences held at the Institute. Our presence in the media increased, even compared to the previous years. According to our register of media appearances, there were in total **258 occasions** when researchers of the Institute appeared in the written and electronic media as experts. This figure can be broken down as follows:

- ◆ 103 appearances in the written press,
- ◆ 113 appearances on one of the television channels,
- ◆ 101 appearances on the radio,
- ◆ 1615 appearances on the Internet.

For a comparison, see the data of the previous three years:

	2006	2007	2008	2009
The total number of appearances registered by OKRI:	138	204	258	454
<i>Of which:</i>				
Written press	39	80	85	103
Radio	28	51	55	101
TV	42	54	63	113
Internet	29	13	55	161

II. Domestic and foreign ties

In 2009, the tasks related to the events and publications connected to the Jubilee Anniversary Year presented a much greater challenge and workload for OKRI staff. Preparations for the conference ‘*The Present, Past and Future of Criminology*’ held on 22 September 2009 had already begun at the end of the 2008. The scholarly session was opened by the Vice Chief Prosecutor, dr. Ervin Belovics, and alongside OKRI staff many respected specialists gave papers that day. A large number of invitees (about 90) took part, representing criminal investigation, justice, jurisprudence and law education in Hungary. The event, along with the entire Jubilee Anniversary Year, was supported by the Chief Prosecutor’s Office.

On 26 October 2009 the following event took place at the Chief Prosecutor’s Office, the aim of which was to show the way in which the OKRI participates in the work of the prosecutors. Feedback from the c. 120 colleagues who attended the event from all over the country was extremely positive, and further demand became apparent regarding topics for research.

The Institute’s domestic and foreign ties are indicated by conference participation, presenting papers at conferences both in Hungary and abroad, tuition, and also holding offices in and being an active member of various organisations. The broad domestic and foreign ties demonstrate that

the researchers of the OKRI are not merely members of the listed respected domestic and foreign professional organisations and bodies but in many cases senior and liaison officials for Hungary.

1. The OKRI's domestic ties

The Institute's *Hungarian ties* continued in accord with previous years. The deepening of the ties is reflected by the fact that researchers use the focus-group discussion method in their research with increasing frequency, the effectiveness of which is reinforced through the OKRI's professional ties.

- The closest possible collaboration was again achieved with the Chief Prosecutor's Office and in general with the prosecution service apparatus. This year we proceeded with research in accordance with seven work schedules directly based on the initiative of the Chief Prosecutor's Office, five of which were completed while two are in progress.
- We keep in continual professional contact with the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement and with the National Crime Prevention Board.
- Our research is supported by the Ministry for Social and Labour Affairs; the publication 'Human market' for instance was published with a subsidy from the ministry.
- The OKRI's researchers use the results achieved in the research in their work as instructors. The Institute staff gave lectures during the course of the year within the framework of the secretary- and draftsman training organised by the Hungarian Prosecutors' Training Centre.
- Our researchers traditionally participate in the work of various higher education institutions, and many of them have academic titles. One of them (*Dr. habil. Lenke Fehér*) is a university professor at Miskolc University. Two (*Ferenc Irk PhD habil.*, and *Géza Finszter PhD habil.*) are university lecturers at JPTE, Pécs and one person (*Klára Kerezsi PhD habil.*) holds the same rank at ELTE's Faculty of Law and Political Science. Two of the institute's senior employees (*Géza Finszter* and *Klára Kerezsi*) work at ELTE as university docents, and *Andrea Borbíró* works there as a university teaching assistant. *Anna Kiss* works at Gáspár Károli University of the Reformed Church as a university docent.

Our researchers have taken part in conferences organised in Hungary as well as at round-table discussions and professional talks where they held lectures by special request, on 142 occasions, and in addition they have taken part in conferences in Hungary on 91 occasions without holding lectures.

2. OKRI's international relations

International relations are of importance in the life of every research institute. Our researchers receive feedback through foreign ties, and this also facilitates the evaluation of the OKRI's research activities, since invitations to participate in international projects, the opportunities offered for joint tenders and an offer of an opportunity to publish in a respected international journal all indicate that the international scholarly community constantly 'measures' and evaluates the research activities and professional findings of the OKRI. International relations make it possible to acquire broader experience and knowledge, while the reciprocity of ties fosters the national and international recognition of our findings.

The OKRI's international renown is shown by the fact that foreign partners invite the Institute to be a member of a consortium in an EU funds application with increasing frequency. In the year reported, as part of the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research, we have been invited to participate as a member of a consortium in international comparative research entitled 'Security and Society'.

On 20 April and 22 July 2009 a work discussion was held as part of the project ‘*Mediation and Restorative Justice in the Prison Settings*’ (MeRePs). Between 14 and 17 October 2009, *Richard Dubourg* (Economic Adviser, Economics and Resource Analysis Unit, Home Office) and *Roger Bowles* (Director, Centre for Criminal Justice Economics and Psychology, University of York, UK) arrived for a working discussion, and with them we outlined the preparatory phase of our joint research related to calculations on the cost of crime and criminal justice.

The researchers gave papers at conferences organised abroad on 21 occasions. Over the same period they gave presentations in a foreign language on 38 occasions, i.e. they had the opportunity to present to foreign colleagues at international conferences held in Hungary. They took part in conferences abroad on seven occasions without holding presentations, though a number of them were section chairs at these events. The researchers covered most of the expenses of conference participation from scholarship or grant money and from other sources, or the inviting party financed it; however, the Chief Prosecutor’s Office has also financed conference participation abroad.

Study trips abroad facilitate young and older researchers alike to gain professional experience. This year *Ferenc Irk* was invited to carry out research work as a guest professor for one month in Freiburg at the *MPI für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht*. *Dávid Vig*’s scholarship provided for the opportunity to take part in the *Deutscher Bundestag IPS* programme for five months. The researchers usually use their paid leave to go on study trips, and in many cases they supplement this with unpaid leave.

The Institute is a place of research with traditionally good international ties. One of the oldest and best working ties is that which links us to the *Max-Planck Institute* in Freiburg, with which we have had a successful exchange of experiences and information and have organised joint conferences for decades, and the MPI received and continues to receive OKRI researchers on scholarships on numerous occasions.

In addition to its conference participation abroad, the Institute’s international profile is also raised by research projects across borders. Over the past years, the OKRI’s participation in numerous international studies has proved that it is capable of holding its ground and is well-suited to fulfilling a strong, regional role as a research centre. We are currently participating in an internationally funded project (MEREPS), which we submitted and won in 2008, and began on 16 March 2009.

The functioning of our international ties is shown by the fact that, on 23 September 2009, Professor *Gorazd Meško*, Deacon of the Criminal Justice and Security Faculty of the University of Maribor, and some of his colleagues made a visit to the OKRI, with the purpose of deepening the scholarly ties between the two organisations. On 24–25 June 2009 two leaders of research groups dealing with terrorism and extremist political movements from the Forensic Science Institute of the German *Federal Criminal Police Office* (Bundeskriminalamt – BKA) came to the OKRI to explore the possibility of collaborative research. The international advisory body created by the BKA, the EENeT (*European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues*) held its 2009 conference in Vienna on 21–23 October 2009, to which the OKRI was also invited. Szilveszter Póczik participated in the conference. On 7 May 2009 we held an information session about the work of the OKRI for the Lithuanian delegation visiting the Chief Prosecutor’s Office.

III. Library information

With the help of our library database, our homepage shows the public what kind of publications and journals are available in our library. We also keep our staff constantly informed of new items in our library through our internal Newsletter. In addition, thanks to the work of our researchers,

researchers can find out about several online journals that can be viewed on the internet in our Newsletter.

Together with our Newsletter, this year we regularly published four co-newsletters (EFUS, CJ NEWS, CYBEX, NEBEK), and in addition informed our researchers about events in Hungary and internationally, through recommended events, invitations and publicising opportunities for publication.

This year, as in earlier years, we must emphasise that the cost of ordering both foreign and Hungarian books and journals is constantly rising. The only solution to this appears to be reducing the number of orders, in order to maintain quality provision.

We continue to place great emphasis on the acquisition and collection of specialist literature. Following a complete stock-taking in 2009, our library stock presently consists of over 8,000 volumes. Despite diminishing resources, development and the acquisition of books were still possible in the year in question: In 2009 the library stock increased by 81 volumes, of which 46 volumes were gifts, or entered the stock through exchange.

Links were set up between the OKRI library, the Library of the Police Officers' College and the Library of the Criminal Expert and Research Institute. This represents mutual assistance to all three of the institutions and improves and accelerates the flow of information.

A start was made on ordering the online subject catalogue, a content analysis of four journals (Rendészeti Szemle [Law Enforcement Review], Börtönügyi Szemle [Prison Affairs Review], Magyar Jog [Hungarian Law], Jogtudományi Közlöny [Jurisprudence Gazette]), and on ordering the records in the catalogue.

This year we moved to a computerised loans system, which is faster and more efficient than the previous manual loans. Next year the KisTéka integrated system will be updated and modernised.

Currently the library subscribes to the following journals: Állam- és Jogtudomány [Law and Political Science], Rendészeti Szemle [Law Enforcement Review], Börtönügyi Szemle [Prison Affairs Review], Magyar Jog [Hungarian Law], Jogtudományi Közlöny [Jurisprudence Gazette], Magyar Tudomány [Hungarian Science], Ügyészségi Közlöny [Prosecutors' Gazette], Magyar Közlöny [Hungarian Gazette], Bírósági Határozatok tára [Repository of Court Resolutions], Család, Gyermekek, Ifjúság [Family, Children, Youth], Magyar Pszichológiai Szemle [Hungarian Review of Psychology], The British Journal of Criminology, European Journal of Criminology, Kriminalistik, Kriminologisches Journal, and Monatschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform.

To commemorate the 50 years of the institute, an exhibition was made of the study volumes of current and former researchers here.

IV. OKRI's internal training system

We continue to regard the Institute's internal training as being of the utmost importance in fostering the development of the Institute and the researchers, as well as in maintaining ties with practice and the disciplines related to criminology. Since the second semester of 2006, internal specialist training has been renewed and effectively extended. Researchers are eager to learn the broader view given by the invited lecturers, and participate increasingly actively in the programmes. We collect feedback on our specialist programmes from our researchers every six months through an evaluation questionnaire, and also ask for suggestions for other lecturers and topics to be borne in mind when organising the programmes.

One new feature this year was the series Topic of the Month, which ran through the jubilee year. Respected speakers, together with specialists in the field and staff carrying out research at the

institute, deal with one important and pertinent topic a month in workshops, presenting many aspects of the issue in question.

In 2009 **Topic of the Month** was organised twice:

- In October a series of four lectures entitled **Conflict Management or Punishment?** was held (the topic leader was *Tünde Barabás*).
- In November our researchers had two lectures entitled **Protecting Society in Criminal Policy / European Trends** (the topic leaders were *Andrea Borbíró* and *Dávid Vig*).

In commemoration of the Anniversary Year, in the series of events and publications in September 2009, we published the first volume of the **OKRI Szemle** [OKRI Review] compiled from the material of guests invited to speak at the OKRI forums. Our intention in future is to publish the OKRI Szemle every two years as a second publication of the institute.

This year we also retained the well-functioning structure of the 'Professional Days'. These programmes are held every Wednesday, organised in the modules of the **School of Criminology**, the **Law Enforcement Forum**, the **Sociology Workshop** and the **Professional Day** at the end of the month.

The programmes below were organised within the Institute's internal training system in 2009:

<i>I. Workshop in Criminology Issues</i>	
4th March	József Kó: <i>SPSS in practice I.</i>
1st April	József Kó: <i>SPSS in practice II.</i>
6th May	József Kó: <i>SPSS in practice III.</i>
3rd June	József Kó: <i>SPSS in practice IV.</i>
28th October	Klára Kerezsi: <i>Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Benefits of longitudinal criminological researches</i>
4th November	Lajos Császi, Zoltán Fleck, Klára Kerezsi: <i>Public opinion, populism and crime policy</i>
<i>II. Workshop in Jurisdiction</i>	
14th January	Zsolt Németh: <i>Police Practices in juvenile justice cases</i>
11th February	Balázs Dénes: <i>Litigation practices in human rights cases</i>
10th March	Ferenc Kondorosi: <i>Law Enforcement and Criminal Policies</i>
15th April	Andrea Domokos: <i>Reform of Hungarian Criminal Policy</i>
13th May	András Krémer: <i>Restorative justice in school violence cases</i>
23rd September	Attila Fogarasi: <i>Legal background of the operation of National Security Office</i>
14th October	Ilona Görgényi: <i>Alternative Dispute Resolution or Punishment</i>
11th November	Imre Papp: <i>Actual matters in codification</i>
9th December	Sándor Ihász: <i>Legal Practice of Capital Public Prosecutor' Office</i>
<i>III. Workshop in Social Sciences</i>	
21st January	Péter Tölgyessy: <i>Actual Political Analysis</i>
18th February	József Mayer: <i>School violence research</i>
18th March	András Polgár, Erzsébet Diós, Mihály Tóth, Péter Bárándy: <i>Legal Actions against Bankers in Hungary</i>
22nd April	Péter Popper: <i>Youth violence and media</i>
20th May	Attila Kormány: <i>The Chinese legal system</i>
16th September	Gergely Karácsony: <i>Review of Current Affairs</i>
21st October	Zsuzsanna Barinkai: <i>Some successful mediation cases and something on the obstacles to family law mediation</i>
18th November	Andrea Borbíró, Dávid Vig: <i>Public Protection in the USA and Europe</i>
<i>IV. OKRI Workshop</i>	
28th January	Szilvia Antal–László Tibor Nagy–Ágnes Solt: <i>Empirical Research on Life Long Sentences</i>
25th February	Katalin Parti: <i>Criminological theories</i>
25th March	Petra Bárd: <i>Genetic Database for Criminal Purposes</i>

8th April	Ágnes Solt: <i>Mentality investigation of people living in segregated villages</i>
29th April	Anna Kiss: <i>Do we need the European Prosecutor?</i>
27th May	Iván Münnich: <i>Transaction analysis and anti-social behaviour</i>
30th September	Lenke Fehér: <i>60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe - Activity of the CDEG</i>
7th October	Borbála Fellegi, Éva Györfi, Gabriella Benedek: <i>Project on community mediation</i>
25th November	Szilvia Gyurkó-György Virág: <i>Media and Justice</i>

V. Institutional publications

1. Institutional volumes and publications

Publications of the Institute:

- 1.) György Virág (ed.): *Kriminológiai Tanulmányok 46*, OKRI, Budapest, 2009.
- 2.) György Virág (ed.): *OKRI Szemle*, OKRI, Budapest, 2009.

In relation to the OKRI Anniversary Year, the institute plans to issue a publication presenting itself internationally, entitled '*OKRI Review*'. The plans are for the volume to contain brief reports of those institute research projects that may be of international interest.

2. Institutional Newsletter

In the Intranet Newsletter, the Institute informs staff about new items in the library, and also – thanks to our researchers' independent activities – draws attention to several online specialist journals.

As an innovation this year, by request we started publishing the news content of four 'external' newsletters on a regular basis: at a domestic level we distribute the information from the International Criminal Cooperation Centre (NEBEK), and at the international level we share points of interest from the 'Criminology Criminal Justice Newsletter <CJ News>' of Tübingen University (ed. Hans-Juergen Kerner); the European Forum for Urban Safety <EFUS>; and the E-Newsletter on the Fight Against Cybercrime <ENAC-CYBEX> to our fellow researchers.

VI. Maintaining ties, popularising science

1. OKRI completed the following tasks in 2009 with the aim of popularising its activities:

- continuously updating the OKRI webpage in Hungarian and English
- preparation of volume 46 of *Kriminológiai Tanulmányok* [Studies in Criminology]
- preparation of the Jubilee year publication *OKRI Szemle* [OKRI Review]
- Compilation of the CD supplement *OKRI 50*
- preparation of publicity material for the OKRI 50 event
- editing the Institute's weekly internal newsletter
- holding press conferences
- maintaining contact with the press, organising one-to-one interviews

2. Press conferences

1.) 27th January 2009 – OKRI

Urban crime: new opportunities for self-defence

Book launch (*Tünde Barabás, Ferenc Irk, Szandra Windt*)

- 2.) 19th February 2009 – OKRI
Life behind bars
 Results of research (*Szilvia Antal, Petra Bárd, László Tibor Nagy, Ágnes Solt*)
- 3.) 22nd September 2009 – OKRI
The Past, Present and Future of Criminology in Hungary – press conference on the opening conference of the OKRI 50 Anniversary Year
- 4.) 5th October 2009 – OKRI
Child pornography on the internet
 Book launch (*Katalin Parti*)
- 5.) 1st December 2009 – OKRI
Shut out – a study of Roma communities in segregated estates
 Results of research (*Ágnes Solt*)

3. Professional focus group discussions

We tailor our institute's research projects to the needs of professionals working in the field. In order to facilitate this, there is a growing trend to hold focus group discussions as an organic part of the research process. On 22 July 2009, in the research project '*Opportunities for mediation in penal enforcement*', and on 1 October 2009 in the research project '*Characteristics of mediation as seen by the prosecutor*' we organised focus group discussions for prosecutors.

4. Other events

Beyond the focus group discussions that fitted into the framework of the research activities, the Institute provided the venue for several important events during the reporting period:

- The OKRI regularly hosts the roundtable discussions of the *Ügyészek Lapja* [Prosecutors' Journal]
- The event entitled '*20 Years of the Victimology Section of the Hungarian Society of Criminology*' organised by the Victimology Section of the Hungarian Society of Criminology took place in the Institute on 19 November 2009.
- The Hungarian Society of Criminology held several scholarly events at the Institute:
 - 5 March 2009: '*Built environment – crime prevention*' (roundtable discussion)
 - 8 October 2009: '*A new law against domestic violence*' (roundtable discussion)
 - 26 November 2009: '*Sentencing and enforcing community work*' (roundtable discussion)
- On 9 December 2009, the OKRI provided the venue for the scholarly circle organised jointly by the scholarly circle on Criminal proceedings of the Károli Gáspár University and the OKRI.

VII. Webpage

We continuously update our webpage, which was revamped in 2006. The management of the administrative interface and continuous updates are carried out by a staff member working in the Communications and Education Department.

Utilising the benefits offered by the internet (now essential), our modern webpage is updated on a weekly basis to in order that every visitor to our site can view:

- reports on the diverse activities of the Institute (e.g. main directions, completed research projects, yearly schedule);
- we continuously provide news on topical events both at home and abroad (Events);
- all of our researchers have their own personal page where they can update their data, upload their studies and share other information;
- we popularise our publications on a separate tab (Publications);

- we provide an insight into the life of the Institute, and as well as news we illustrate some of our memorable events with photos, (Intézeti aktualitások [Institute news], Gallery);
- we offer advanced search options (Publications, Library) and provide key data to optimise the results of international search engines such as Google, Yahoo, etc.;
- the English language version of our webpage allows non-Hungarians to browse;
- the range of programmes and events for the OKRI 50 Anniversary Year, starting with events this year, can be found on both the Hungarian and English webpages.

the positive feedback we receive shows that our webpage is informative and user-friendly, and the statistical data indicate frequent visits, and a growing trend.